

What is a Subject Term?

<http://www.alverno.edu/media/alvernocollege/library/pdfs/subject.pdf>

Subject terms (aka subject headings) are words assigned to an item to describe what it's about. Subject terms are found in the records of books, journal articles, DVDs, and other items available through the library.

Suppose you are searching for journal articles in a database and you aren't happy with your results. Look over your list of results and try to find an article that seems somewhat relevant to what you need. Then look for the subject terms associated with that article.

Librarians refer to subject terms as “pearls” and they are really great search terms. Incorporate pearls onto your next search if you aren't happy with what you're finding. The following example is from an EBSCOhost database search.

◀ Result List Refine Search ◀ 1 of 1 ▶

The Atlantic Divide: Contrasting U.K. and U.S. Recommendations on Cosleeping and Bed-Sharing.

Authors: Ball, Helen L.

Affiliation: Durham University, Durham, UK

Source: [Journal of Human Lactation](#) (J HUM LACT), Nov2017; 33(4): 765-769. (5p)

Publication Type: Article - tables/charts

Language: English

Major Subjects: Practice Guidelines -- United States
Practice Guidelines -- United Kingdom
Bed Sharing -- United Kingdom
Bed Sharing -- United States
Sudden Infant Death -- Prevention and Control

Minor Subjects: United Kingdom; United States; American Academy of Pediatrics; Breast Feeding; Public Policy; National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; National Institutes of Health (U.S.)

Abstract: The article talks about sleep-related infant deaths, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in United States and Great Britain. It mentions the recommendations for a safe sleep environment include supine positioning, the use of a firm sleep surface, room-sharing without bed-sharing, and the avoidance of soft bedding and overheating. The article also discusses the sleeping pattern and policies and way to reduce such incidents.

Journal Subset: Core Nursing; Double Blind Peer Reviewed; Editorial Board Reviewed; Expert Peer Reviewed; Nursing; Peer Reviewed; USA

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These are subject headings

